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WEDNESDAY.....JULY 13, 1904

As Secretary Walter B. Stevens truly says: "After all the people are the great exhibit of the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904. Life is its highest claim to distinction and human interest. The Jew looks from the walls of the Holy City and espies afar on the Filipino trudging across the bridge of Pasig into the gate of Manila. The Japanese from the garden on the heights see where the Chinese dwell in the Palace of Pu Lun. Ceylonese serve their own tea in their palivion from Columbo, while Turks offer strange things for American coin in the Bazar of Stamboul. Dwelling in their villages we see representatives of sixty-one families of American aborigines; also giants from Patagonia and pygmies from Congo Land." Besides these, there are Alaskans, Eskimos, Bohemians and Cliff Dwellers; Tryloeans and Moors, Spaniards and Egyptians, Mexicans and Swiss—all manners of civilized and uncivilized nations from the four quarters of the globe. No Exposition could possibly be more universal, and it, therefore, becomes all the more necessary to catch and preserve it, as may be done by securing that superb "Forest City" series of World's Fair Art Portfolios. Four parts now ready at Star office.

Taft's View Of Philippines

Secretary Taft, in an address before the New York Chamber of Commerce, set forth his policy—naturally the administration policy—with regard to the Philippines, and by so doing has stirred up discussion from one end of the country to the other. Basing his whole scheme on the doctrine of "the Philippines for Filipinos" Taft declares for retention of the islands by the United States for a time, perhaps several generations, while the natives are given every opportunity and encouragement to learn the principles of successful popular government. He would continue the spread of the educational system, and holds up a picture of a future Filipino race, developed to a fitness for self-government, being given by the American people the opportunity to establish their own nation if they choose, or to maintain a relation with the United States similar to that which binds Australia or Canada to Great Britain.

It is no wonder that the anti-expansionist has come forth from his retirement to renew his contest over a programme of this sort. Nothing like it has been heard of before. The time for the Filipino decision cannot arise, says Taft, for "probably several generations," and in the meantime American capital is to enter the islands and American citizens are to settle there. With sublime confidence in the good conscience and judgment of the American people, Taft says that he believes that they can be trusted "rightfully to solve" this extraordinary problem of Philippine independence, in that distant day when the risen Filipino, himself the arbiter, first having been held fit to decide, says either that he will be a member of an independent Filipino nation, or that he will remain a part of the American Republic.

This programme of idealism is intellectual food and drink to the anti-expansionist. Driven from his original position of attacking the administration for designedly conquering eight million people and subjecting them to a government whose powers certainly cannot in even the slightest degree be said to be "derived from the consent of the governed," the anti-expansionist can easily pick flaws in the programme, draw historical parallels—American treatment of the Indians for example—to show that Taft's trust in the national conscience is overgreat, and multiply arguments to bring home the undoubted truth that the United States has departed from the ideals of her constitution and of the Declaration of Independence, in subduing the people of this troublesome archipelago of "about 3,000 islands," presented to his country by Admiral Dewey as an easily-won prize of war.

But to the anti-expansion arguments there is at least one good Yankee answer—a question. In the expressive language of the curbstone, "What are you going to do about it?" Taft's programme may be one of idealism such as practical statesmen seldom indulge in, but it is idealistic devotion to a new and high-minded programme. The anti-expansionist is just as idealistic, but his devotion is to a political doctrine which seems impracticable for the case at issue. What can the United States do with the Philippines except hold them in some way or other? And if they must be held, what better American way can there be to hold them than under some sort of a plan which insists, as does that of Taft, on holding fast to the doctrines Americans hold sacred and leaving it to the future to see the doctrines carried out when it becomes possible to carry them out?

There is an old, homely story of a man who made a captive of a bear by cleverly inserting his thumb between the animal's teeth. Uncle Sam's acquisition of the Philippines bears some resemblance to the feat of the hero of this happy fable. The Philippines have been an expense, a tragedy and a troublesome political problem to the United States, ever since the battle of Manila Bay. But only American control prevented frightful internal conditions after the defeat of Spain and perhaps has prevented a great war among the Powers which would undoubtedly have interfered. The expansionists who have raved against holding on to the Philippines have so far failed to say anything about how to let go.

Serious Chances For Japanese

The report from Mukden of a serious repulse of the Japanese forces before Port Arthur is just what might have been expected. The great Russian fortress is undoubtedly protected by mines as well as by the best forts known to military science. It is idle to expect that any army can march to the attack of such a place and carry it by storm at least without some terrible repulses and appalling loss of life.

The whole Port Arthur situation appears from our meagre information far less favorable to the Japanese than it seemed some weeks ago. It is quite evident that Togo's fleet has all it can handle on the sea. Togo recently reported six Russian battleships issuing from the harbor. His own strength in this class of vessels is only five. He has far more cruisers than the Russians, but according to the experts a battleship is the equal for tactical purposes, of four cruisers. If the Russian vessels are in good condition—and it is to be presumed that they would not have been starting to battle unless they had been at least fairly well repaired—the Japanese superiority is not very great. Another Hatsuse tragedy would make the situation grave.

It is reasonable to suppose that the Russian navy is busying itself with repairs and preparations for battle and that the commander still hopes for the situation to become more equal, through Japanese losses or by the sending of some Japanese vessels to other points. On the water side, therefore, the Japanese evidently will continue to have all they can do to protect their transport service from the Port Arthur fleet. As the sinking of the Sado and Hitachi showed, they are not able to protect it altogether from the Vladivostok squadron.

On land the Japanese progress has been steady and marked by a succession of brilliant victories. But all the world knows that Russia has not yet given battle in large force. Kuropatkin, an able military strategist, with an immense army, is hanging on, maneuvering north of Kuroki and Oku, watching them as Togo watches his bottled-up opponent in Port Arthur. A serious reverse, such as the one reported at Port Arthur, might easily bring this Russian general down on the aggressive, in a great effort to overwhelm the Japanese armies. What would the Japanese successes count for in the face of one such defeat? Russia can afford to be defeated over and over again. She has merely to fall back nearer home, renew preparations and begin again. One heavy defeat for Japan leaves her armies on a foreign soil, with the gravest danger of interruption of lines of transport and communication—and nowhere to retreat to. A crushing defeat at Port Arthur would scarcely leave the Japanese army in a position to withstand a sudden offensive movement by Kuropatkin in full strength. It is conceivable that such a movement might collapse the Japanese land campaign like a pricked balloon.

Such an end to the brilliant aggressions of the Japanese would very suddenly upset the world's calculations and quickly re-establish Russian prestige. The Japanese general disaster if it occurred at all, would necessarily be gigantic, for the transport service could not be equal to embarking the retreating armies. It would be one great, overwhelming failure, such as the Japanese could probably never recover from on land.

Of course this is mere speculation. Taking into account the military efficiency shown by the Japanese commanders and the splendid quality of their troops, it does not seem likely that either Kuropatkin or Stoessel will be able to make a successful movement against them. It is interesting, nevertheless, to consider the possibilities both ways. The world received the Japanese successes with acclaims and had only derision for the constantly defeated Russians. What comments and explanations a reversal of the situation would produce! And what a national tragedy it would be to see a retreating Japanese army embarking—as much as could embark—like Sir John Moore's remnants after Corunna, to return to disappointed and defeated Japan!

The Democrats have held their ratification meeting at last. They certainly have something worth ratifying, in the downing of Bryan. That is quite as much a cause for jollification as the nomination of Parker.

The rush of people to the Mainland appears to be lessening. It has been very heavy for some months past and the effect has been to materially add to the dullness of times locally. A revival may be expected when the return begins.

With Hearst supporting a tool of the Trusts and Bryan supporting a gold candidate, the Democracy certainly presents a beautiful spectacle.

The report of the killing of 28,000 Japanese by a mine was not very generally taken at its face value. But it created a general impression that "something had happened."

An immense increase in the importation of sugar from Cuba and a consequent falling off in the production of sugar in Louisiana since the Cuban reciprocity treaty went into effect is reported by the American Protective Tariff League. There has been no increase in the consumption of sugar, and the average price both in 1903 and 1904 was 1.97 cents a pound, thus showing that the Cubans received no more for their sugar than before the treaty. There has been no change in the price to the Amrican consumer. The net result of the treaty then, the League figures, is that the Government has lost on the amount of sugar imported this year about $1,500,000 in revenue, without any corresponding gain to the consumer.—N. Y. Sun.

Mataafa suddenly reappears in Samoan news as the occasion of a good deal of uneasiness among the white population of German Samoa. The chief has made enough trouble in his day to warrant caution in dealing with the situation. The fact that the governor of the colony thought the matter sufficiently grave to warrant his making a public explanation shows that there is still some danger in the Samoan situation.

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